

Dumont Dunes TRT  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
November 28, 2006

Bureau of Land Management  
Barstow Field Office  
Conference Room  
2601 Barstow Road  
Barstow, CA 92311  
(760) 252-6000

1. Call to Order

TRT Chairman Bill Presch called the meeting to order at 10:08 am and led the TRT in a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Introductions

Members of the TRT and participating BLM staff introduced themselves:

TRT Members Present:

Dr. William Presch, chairman; California Desert District Advisory Council  
Randy Banis, secretary; other motorized recreation  
Terry Allen, Nevada OHV interests (via speakerphone)  
David Charlton, California Desert District Advisory Council  
Kathleen Stosuy, California OHV interests  
Ed Waldheim, California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission  
John Dagleish, Friends of Dumont Dunes

BLM Staff Present:

Roxie Trost, Manager, Barstow Field Office  
Lynnette Elser, Recreation Chief, Barstow Field Office  
Dan Briot, Chief Ranger, Barstow Field Office  
David Frink, Wilderness Coordinator, Barstow Field Office

Members of the General Public Present:

None

TRT Members Absent:

Jim Bramham, vice chairman; OHV organizations  
Sheri Davis, commercial filming, California Desert District Advisory Council  
Gerry Hillier, San Bernardino County  
Ron Schiller, California Desert District Advisory Council

B. Agenda

Bill Presch opened the agenda to additions or changes. Roxie Trost requested the addition of a presentation by Dan Briot, Chief Ranger, regarding supplemental rules.

Randy Banis requested an update on activities so far in the season. The agenda was approved by consent.

### C. Minutes

Randy Banis circulated copies of draft minutes for the TRT's September 26, 2006 meeting. There were no corrections or changes and were accepted by consent.

## 2. Old Business

### A. Supplemental Rules

Dan Briot reported that Halloween 2006 was the busiest Halloween ever, estimating 15,000 visitors. That weekend suffered a double fatality resulting from a sand rail accident that killed the driver and passenger. Thanksgiving weekend Dan estimated was larger with about 20,000 visitors. There were two medical fly-outs but no fatalities.

Dan discussed the growing safety problems resulting from camping in the often congested corridor leading to Competition Hill, and request the TRT's support for a supplemental rule to address the matter.

John Dalglish asked if the TRT's suggestion to ban metal stakes and rebar in the dunes has been put into place. Dan reported that no rule has been drafted for this yet. Ed Waldheim cautioned against piecemeal rule making and urged district wide consistency.

Randy Banis spoke in support of a rule prohibiting camping or staging in the corridor, including taking action under emergency rules. Bill Presch requested that Roxie Trost and Dan draft specific language for the TRT to consider. Roxie discussed the lengthy process for formal rule making and concurred that an emergency rule might be necessary.

Roxie discussed the BLM's efforts to provide visitor services during these peak use weekends, including regularly manning an information table, and providing maps of restrooms.

Roxie also felt that there was a problem with the location of vendor row during the Thanksgiving weekend that would be better managed during the next holiday.

Roxie reported that the Friends of El Mirage loaded their water trucks to the Dumont Dunes area for Thanksgiving. These trucks are easier to use and have more capacity than their previous water trucks. John Dalglish commented that the road was in the best condition ever during that weekend. Roxie reviewed their successful road maintenance strategy employed during the Thanksgiving weekend. Ed Waldheim spoke in full support of putting the water trucks to regular use as needed, even by other BLM field offices.

### A. Dunes Etiquette Campaign Update

John Dalglish presented the TRT with copies of the final Friends of Dumont Dunes trifold brochure. He described the brochure and acknowledged that they were not able to

include everything that they wanted in a small brochure. He reported that 5,000 copies were printed and provided to Western Maintenance, who operates the fee collection station, but they were not as freely distributed as requested.

Roxie reported that the fee station did not pass out the BLM trifold either, noting that Western Maintenance was caught understaffed during the busy Thanksgiving weekend. Roxie is concerned about this and has scheduled a meeting with them to discuss staffing for future holidays.

David Frink asked John what other information he would like to have seen included in the brochure. John suggested a map of bathroom locations and a full list of all rules. Bill Presch complimented the Friends of Dumont Dunes on producing a nice brochure.

Bill Presch called a brief recess at 11:05 am, during which time the TRT examined the new water trucks in the yard. The meeting was reconvened at 11:20 am.

### 3. New Business

#### A. Update on Amargosa River crossing

Although the BLM had planned to improve the Amargosa River crossing prior to the Halloween weekend, the area suffered a large storm just as work was going to be started. The work has been rescheduled for when the river bed again goes dry when will be improved to three lanes.

#### B. Update on H.R. 5149

Ed Waldheim reported that H.R. 5149, which would have designated the Amargosa River near the dunes as a Wild and Scenic river, will not see any further action in the current session. The change in party control in the House and Senate may be favorable to our seeing this bill again in the next session.

#### C. User Fee Increase

At the September 26, 2006 meeting of the TRT Ed Waldheim and Roxie agreed to develop a budget and planning document that would help guide discussions on increasing user fees at Dumont Dunes. Unfortunately, they were not able to do so, therefore, discussions will be postponed until the next TRT.

Lynnette Elser presented a report of ticket sales for FY05, and for the first quarter of FY06. John Dalglish suggested a time line for any potential increase that provides users as much advance notices as possible. Roxie Trost restated that any fee increase would be for next year, and that we were already close to missing the time line for the open process she envisions for making this decision. Roxie said further that future increases would be subject to scrutiny by the new regional recreational fee advisory committees.

#### D. California OHMVR Funds

Ed Waldheim reviewed the pending California OHV grants for the Barstow Field Office,

which includes significant funds to support Dumont Dunes. The Commission is expected to make its final decisions at its December meeting.

Bill Presch called a recess for lunch at 12:05 pm, then reconvened the meeting at 12:30 pm.

E. Friends of Dumont Dunes Cleanup

John Dalgleish and Terry Allen discussed plans underway for the 2007 Friends of Dumont Dunes annual clean up which is scheduled for March 17, 2007.

F. BLM MOU with Friends of Dumont Dunes

Ed Waldheim and Terry Allen urged the BLM to begin work negotiating a memorandum of understanding with the Friends of Dumont Dunes that will formally create a partnership in managing OHV activities at Dumont Dunes. Terry requested that Roxie provide the TRT a copy of the BLM's MOU with the Friends of El Mirage as an example.

4. Members Items

A. Off Road Impact Trade Show

Ed Waldheim suggested that the upcoming Off Road Impact Trade Show, on January 17-19, 2007, at the Sands in Las Vegas, would be a good opportunity for the BLM and the Friends of Dumont Dunes to have a booth.

B. Financial Summary

Lynnette Elser circulated copies of the most recent financial report that states FY05 revenue as \$463,900, and expenses as \$356,553, for a balance of \$118,043.

C. Trash Management

Roxie Trost reviewed previous TRT discussions regarding the "pack it in, pack it out" policy for Dumont Dunes, and the problem of departing dune users filling trash bins in the neighboring town of Tecopa. She also reviewed a recent complaint received from a Tecopa official regarding trash resulting from dune users. Terry Allen suggested that Tecopa make dumpsters available for a fee and publicize it so that folks use it and make it sustainable. Roxie and Terry saw vendor opportunities for a possible dump service.

Ed Waldheim suggested a general fee to pay for dumpster service. Terry spoke in opposition stating that it was not an additional service to those who do pack it out. Randy Banis suggested that a cleanup crew work Highway 127 on the day after holiday weekends. Ed suggested offering funds to Tecopa to hire local residents for clean up.

The group further discussed options and concerns for an education campaign or fee program to directly address the trash management issue.

Bill Presch summarized the discussions and suggested that Roxie return to the TRT with options to re-work the current user education program, and offer funding for a partnership

of sorts with Tecopa. Roxie also spoke in favor of an MOU with a Tecopa entity as being her first preference, and wished that providing dumpsters would remain a last resort.

5. Next Meeting

By consent, the TRT set the following date, time and location for its next public meeting:  
Tuesday, March 6, 2007, 10:00 AM  
BLM Barstow Field Office Conference Room

6 Adjournment

By consent, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Banis  
Secretary, Dumont Dunes Technical Review Team

APPROVED on March 6, 2007

## SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

### Emergency Supplemental Rule prohibiting camping and staging in Comp Hill corridor

Bill Presch requested that Roxie Trost and Dan draft specific language for the TRT to consider.

### User Fee Increase

Ed Waldheim will work with Roxie Trost and staff to revise the Dumont Dunes budget to assist with TRT discussions regarding fee levels.

Bill Presch will place this on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

### BLM MOU with Friends of Dumont Dunes

Terry requested that Roxie provide the TRT a copy of the BLM's MOU with the Friends of El Mirage as an example.

### Trash Management

Bill Presch suggested that Roxie return to the TRT with options to re-work the current user education program, and offer funding for a partnership of sorts with Tecopa. Roxie also spoke in favor of an MOU with a Tecopa entity as being her first preference, and wished that providing dumpsters would remain a last resort.

### Next Meeting

By consent, the TRT set the following date, time and location for its next public meeting: Tuesday, March 6, 2007, 10:00 AM, BLM Barstow Field Office Conference Room.